



In Depth: The Aldersgate logo was inspired by the Love Sculpture in Philadelphia, PA., to remind us that God is Love and that Love is the Greatest Commandment.

Aldersgate *In Action*



In Depth: “It’s Time...” is the name of our current sermon series, which has been designed to explore the season of Advent, during which we are invited to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Today’s sermon, “to Prepare,” is the second in the series. You will find the order of worship for today’s service on Page 4.

Welcome to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, where the mission is to raise up deeply devoted disciples of Jesus. You have a place here. Regardless of who you are, where you have been and where you are in faith’s journey, you belong here. In *Aldersgate In Action*, you will find information about various ministries and opportunities. Please, feel no pressure. Just know that if you are looking to grow in your faith and in relationships with God and others, you are welcome and encouraged to do both here. Grace and Peace!

Aldersgate United Methodist Church • 1741 Sayles Blvd., Abilene, TX 79605 • (325) 672-7893
www.aldersgateabilene.org



In the Works

Regularly Scheduled Services and Opportunities to Grow and Serve:
All are welcome! Please contact the Office (672-7893), if you'd like to know more about becoming involved in the activities on the schedule below.

This Week:

Upcoming Events:

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:05 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
7:30 p.m. College Ministry

Tuesday:

6:00 p.m. Jubilee Ringers

Wednesday:

6:00 p.m. Children's Musical Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Monday:

9:00 a.m. College Finals Brunch
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Saturday:

10:00 a.m. Baby Shower for the Feltz family

December 13:

All-Church Christmas Celebration

December 24:

Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00 p.m.

In Depth: Each week, the pages of the *In Action* will contain updates, news and other information about Aldersgate's music ministry, the children's, youth and college ministries, and opportunities to serve in the Mission Field. (The Mission Field has been identified as four areas of focus in which to share the love of God outside of the church locally: McMurry University (and other Abilene colleges and universities), Bowie Elementary, Our Neighborhoods and Aldersgate Academy).

Music Ministry: *Starry Night*, *Noisy Night* and Christmas Eve



Christmas is an exciting time for music at Aldersgate! We wanted to thank everyone who joined us for the Chancel Choir cantata this Sunday and invite anyone who is interested in singing with us in the Christmas Eve Choir. We will have regular Chancel Choir rehearsals on Wednesdays from now until Christmas Eve, from 7:00-8:00 p.m., then you can join us to rehearse Christmas Eve music from 8:00-8:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, December 13, the children of the church will present a musical called *Starry Night, Noisy Night*, during the combined worship service at 10:05 a.m. The

musical encourages us to focus on Christ during the hustle and bustle of the season, when so many other things are calling for our attention. The kids have been working hard to learn the songs and their lines, and they are looking forward to performing for you! Thank you to all the parents for working so hard to get your children to all the rehearsals. We hope everyone in the congregation will make plans to attend next week and that the music of Aldersgate will be a blessing to you during the Advent and Christmas seasons!

— David Wallis and Kathryn Andrews

College Ministry: Finals Week



This week marks the final week of the semester for our students, many of whom will be taking an exam or more before packing up their rooms and heading home for the break. Tomorrow, we will serve a brunch for our students as a way of showing our support for them as they finish their coursework. From 9:00-11:00 a.m., students may take a break from their studies by coming to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some great food provided by our community, including Pastor Steve's famous pancakes! This brunch is one of the many ways that our community continues to serve college students faithfully. I am thankful to play a role

in a church that responds to a calling to serve and love students and has taken steps to orient its mission field around a university. I ask that you would continue to remember our students, and our ministry and mission with McMurry University in your prayers this week as we continue to discern our calling faithfully. May we continue to respond to Christ's presence within us and hope for the coming of glorious things, both in our community and around the world. — Kyle Watson

Lenten Journey: Creating a Family Quilt

I know that Advent seems like a strange time to make an announcement about the Lenten season, but, in all reality, the seasons of Advent and Lent are linked together because they both invite us to take stock of our lives, repent of the ways we've missed the mark and look toward a day when all the discarded and seemingly useless pieces of life begin to come together and make a little sense.

During the six weeks that lead up to Easter, our church will take a collective journey toward wholeness, attempting to bring the scraps of our lives to the foot of the cross so Jesus can help us weave a tapestry of grace. One of the ways we want to symbolize this is by creating a family quilt together! We will be collecting scraps of fabric from now until the end of January, scraps that will become part of our family quilt! There will be a collection point in the main hallway where you can drop off your pieces of fabric. Please make sure your fabric is at least 24-36 inches wide. If you want to be part of our quilting team, please call me at 325-668-0626 or e-mail at timothypalmermusic@gmail.com.

Thanks so much! — Timothy Palmer



It's Time ... to Prepare

Luke 3: 1-6
Sermon Notes

One of these is not like the other:

Flat, straight, and smooth...Just the way God likes it?

Rough Barriers...

Purifying Preparation

The "Day of Christ" is coming.

"Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he- quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"... "Safe?" said Mr Beaver ... "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

— CS Lewis from The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

Our Mission: Raising Up Deeply Devoted Disciples of Jesus

Operation Christmas Child: Thank You!



Our community of faith shipped 146 shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts and the life-giving Good News of the gospel of Christ as part of Operation Christmas Child this year. Thanks to all who participated in packing the boxes and donating the money needed to sponsor them. A special thanks goes to Charlie and Maudie Webb for their leadership.

Staff Appreciation: An Invitation from the SPRC

Christmas is a time of traditions. Aldersgate has many traditions. One is to show the staff our appreciation with a monetary gift during the Christmas season. Throughout the year, we benefit from many activities and sermons. These all are the result of each staff member contributing hours of discerning God's will and planning how to bring that to each member of the church. Now is the time for us to show them our appreciation with a gift of love.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is collecting these gifts of cash, which will be divided and dispersed prior to Christmas. We invite individuals, Sunday School classes and other groups to contribute joyfully. Please make checks payable to Aldersgate UMC and designate your gift in the memo line as *Staff Christmas Gifts*. You may turn these in to the office or give them to any SPRC member. The members are Loretta Carter, David Feemster, John Stearns, Artie Waller, Kevin Ripple, Linda Strother, Jocelyn Furr, Bob Gillette, and Cindy Raehl. We will collect these gifts through Friday, December 18. The ministry leaders to be honored are:

Pastor: Steve Brooks

Associate Pastor: Amy Wilson Feltz

Music: David Wallis

Organist: Van Hayes

Pianist: Kristi Hayes

Finance: KB Woods

Children's Ministries: Alayna Brooks

Associate for Children's Ministries: Amber Redman

Youth/Contemporary Worship: Daniel Mathis

College/Young Adults: Kyle Watson

Connections: Jessica Watson

Academy: Carol Rogers

Receptionist: Susan Acosta

Administration: Kathryn Andrews

Custodial Services: Robert Sandoval

Media: John Bolden

Audio/Visual Techs: Eric Gillette

Abby Wallis

Youth Interns: Phoebe Head

Heide Forrester

Wyatt Goetch

College Interns: Dennis Land, Carly Payne

"Remember this: whoever shows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. We, the congregation members of Aldersgate, are blessed by the ministries led by this staff. Thank you for showing your appreciation with your gift.

— Loretta Carter

In Depth: At Aldersgate, all are invited to practice faithfulness in our prayers, presence (attendance), gifts (offering of money), service (action in the community) and witness (sharing our faith). You will find information about service and witness throughout the pages of Aldersgate In Action. This page is dedicated to matters of prayer, presence, and gifts.

Prayers

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Clay Meadows | Carolyn Strain | Lou Adams |
| Doris Ogden | Military and Families | Clinton Gayle |
| Dori Oiler | Mary Gregory | Addison English |
| Lou Swindell | Millie Speed | Lora Langford |
| Ken Schmidt | Sarah Doucette | Bob Kuykendall |
| Alice Shaw | Delmon Wilson | Sherli Aldridge |
| Alice Alcala | | |

The e-mail prayer list is coordinated by Barbara Owens. Please send prayer requests and requests to join the e-mail list to prayer@aldersgateabilene.org.

Pat Clayton is a long time member of Aldersgate and was treasurer for UMW for several years as well as a member of the Lamplighters Class. She has moved to be closer to her daughter and son. Her new address is: 5760 Sandshell Cir. E Apt. 30201 Ft. Worth, TX 76137 and her email is ibclayton@yahoo.com.

Aldersgate volunteers serve at the Methodist Food Pantry, located at N. 1st and Shelton, on the second Tuesday of the month, from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Free childcare is available. For more information call Susan Steele at 605-381-6322.

Facebook page: facebook.com/AldersgateUnitedMethodistChurch

Twitter: @AldersgateABI

Instagram: @aldersgateabi

Presence

11.29.2015

9:00 a.m. Traditional Service = 132

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service = 148

Total Worship = 280

Sunday School = 114

In Depth: Sunday School classes are offered at 10:05 a.m. for all ages. To learn more about Adult Sunday School classes, call Amy Wilson Feltz at 672-7893 or send an e-mail to amywilsonfeltz@aldersgateabilene.org.

Gifts

Budget for 2015 = \$808,647.00

Received This Week = \$6,951.86

Received This Month-to-Date = \$56,389.22

Received Year-to-Date = \$691,814.83

2015 Faith Promise Pledge = \$41,819.00

2015 Faith Promise Contributions = \$45,623.92

In Depth: Aldersgate offers two forms of electronic giving: Online Bill Pay and ACH Direct Draft. EFT Authorization Forms are available in the office and on our website at www.aldersgateabilene.org. If you have additional questions regarding Stewardship, contact K.B. Woods (672-7893, kbwoods@aldersgateabilene.org).

Ministry Leaders

Pastor: Steve Brooks (325) 660-4415

Associate Pastor:

Amy Wilson Feltz (325) 660-5017

Finance: K. B. Woods

Music: David Wallis

Children: Alayna Brooks

& Amber Redman

Youth/Contemporary Worship:

Daniel Mathis

College/Young Adults: Kyle Watson

Connections: Jessica Watson

Academy: Carol Rogers

Reception: Susan Acosta

Administration: Kathryn Andrews

Custodial Services:

Robert Sandoval

Staying Connected:

Address: 1741 Sayles, 79605

Phone Number: (325) 672-7893

Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs. 8-12, 1-5

Fri. 8-12

Web Site:

www.aldersgateabilene.org

Facebook: Aldersgate UMC

Text Message Reminders:

gracepeace to 313131

E-mail Reminders:

news@aldersgateabilene.org



In the World by Pastor Amy

Please mark your calendars for next Sunday, December 13, 2015. That is the date of our annual All-Church Christmas Celebration, and the schedule looks like this:

9:00 a.m. = Sunday School

10:05 a.m. = One Worship Service in Sanctuary (with Children's Program)

11:15 a.m. = Celebration Lunch in the Fellowship Hall

After Lunch = Visitation of Homebound

One of the things that Pastor Steve and I hear from time to time is that you desire more opportunities to get to know and relate to one another, especially if you attend different worship services on a regular basis. That is why the Sunday of our All-Church Christmas Celebration is one of my favorite days of the year. It gives us our entire congregation the chance to do just that as we worship and eat together.

While I certainly value our two distinct styles of worship that take place each week, it is such a blessing for all of us to come together during one service to worship in one place at one time. And the children's program always brings such joy!

Eating together builds relationships as we reconnect with old friends and make new ones. If you are able, please use the insert in the *In Action* this week to sign up to contribute a pot of soup, chili, or beans or some bread to the luncheon. (Dessert will be provided by Cathy Justus. Thank you!) Volunteers also are welcome in the kitchen!

My favorite part of the whole day is the love that we show our friends who are not able to come to church. Because you are willing to take some time that afternoon to visit one of our homebound members, this truly is an all-church celebration. Several volunteers (families, individuals, groups of friends, members of Sunday School classes) are needed to ensure that every homebound member who would like a visit on December 13 will receive one. These visits are such a blessing to those who receive them and to those who take the time to give them. I will match you with a homebound member, let him or her know that you will be coming and even provide driving directions! You may use your insert to sign up, or contact me at amywilsonfeltz@aldersgateabilene.org or (325) 660-5017.

With many ways to connect with one another, December 13 is shaping up to be a wonderful day!

Suggested Reading

We invite you to read *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives* by Richard Swenson. If you would like a copy, please call the



church office at 672-7893, or make a note on the Welcome Card, and we will order a copy for you. The price is \$14. Grace and Peace!

— Pastor Steve and Pastor Amy

Daily Bible Readings

Below you will find a list of sermon related passages and a list of passages that will take you through the Bible in a year. Please consider reading both each day as we continue to grow in our knowledge of God's word.

Sermon Passages

Sun: Luke 3:1-6

Mon: Malachi 3:1-4

Tue: Isaiah 40:1-11

Wed: Philippians 1:1-11

Thur: Luke 1:68-79

Fri: Amos 6:1-8

Sat: Isaiah 40:12-30

Chronological Bible Readings

Sun: Judges 8-9

Mon: Judges 10-12

Tue: Judges 13-15

Wed: Judges 16-18

Thur: Judges 19-21

Fri: Ruth 1-4

Sat: 1 Samuel 1-3

*How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

Psalm 119: 103